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A method and a sytem of diagnosing corrosion risk of a pipe or a pipeline in soil

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The present invention relates to detection of corrosion of cathodically protected, CP, buried pipelines by use of probes buried in the soil adjacent to the pipelines and electrically connected to the pipelines. More specific, the invention relates to detection of corrosion caused by the combined effect of specific soil parameters and electric fields such as DC stray current or AC voltage induced as a result of paralleling the pipeline with high voltage power lines. Such corrosion is sometimes found to proceed although measures have been taken to eliminate the corrosion effects, e.g. by imposing DC current to the pipeline by an external electrode and a rectifier system, or by sacrificial anodes coupled to the pipe. Usual acceptance criteria (safe/not safe with regard to corrosion) are built upon the DC potential of the pipeline, but specifically in the case of AC induced corrosion, these criteria are not reliable.

Generally, instant corrosion rates are determined by applying electrochemical techniques such as electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS), linear polarisation resistance (LPR) or electrochemical noise (EN) measurements. However, since these techniques require a conducting electrolyte system e.g. a stable water phase they are not applicable in a corrosion process when water is not continuously present. Further, even though the requirements for performing electrochemical measurements are present inaccurate results may occur induced by additional current responses from redox-processes other than those involved in the particular corrosion process, which additional current responses may superimpose on the current response from the corrosion process and cause inaccurate or misleading results. In addition, the interpretation of the results of a measurement performed using one of the generally applied electrochemical techniques often require a specific expertise and knowledge of the user.

Accumulated corrosion is generally quantified by, weight loss measurements, ultrasonic based thickness measurements, eddy-current techniques in near field and far field, magnetic flux leakage techniques or visual inspections (microscopy). In addition, a monitoring of accumulated corrosion in process plants commonly utilizes measurements of electrical resistance (ER) of a corroding metal wire placed in a probe, ER technique. All of the above mentioned techniques for determining accumulated corrosion generally require a series of measurements to be performed with regular time

intervals (years, months, weeks or days) after which the individual measurements may be compared and translated into a degree of accumulated corrosion. None of the techniques provide a fast measurement of instant rate of corrosion or in other words the resolution of these techniques is insufficient. However, thin metal plates have been incorporated in commercial ER-probes and applied in process plants to follow the efficiency of corrosion inhibitor dosage with a fairly quick response (days, weeks or months depending on the actual corrosion rate).

The electrical resistance (ER) technique often utilizes a Wheatstone bridge circuit for the comparison of the electrical resistance of a test section or coupon exposed to a hostile environment and the electrical resistance of a reference coupon protected against the hostile environment. By repeating measurement at regular time intervals, e.g. on a weekly or monthly basis, the accumulated corrosion may be followed throughout time. To achieve acceptable results from a series of measurements reflecting the degree of accumulated corrosion, the applied ER-technique must measure the resistance of the test coupon and the resistance of the reference coupon accurately. However, the resistance of the test coupon and the resistance of the reference coupon are highly temperature dependent. Consequently, the effect of temperature variations from one measurement to another will cause unwanted inaccuracies in the measurements and decreases the comparability of the individual measurements included in a series of measurements.

The probability of corrosion of buried metallic structures may be assessed from formula's found in standards such as the German standard DIN 929 or similar standards. According to the German standard, the soil aggressiveness is based on a type of soil, the soil homogeneity, the resistivity of the soil, the water content of the soil, the pH value, the buffer capacity, the sulfide concentration, the neutral salt contents, the sulfate content, as well as the location of the metallic structure with respect to ground water. A rating is assigned each of these parameters and a total rating is calculated and used for assessment of the probability of corrosion.

Class pipelines are running into distances and through a variety of soil conditions. The prediction of the corrosion rate from comparative assessment of the soil conditions is not

the generation of leaks. Typically, this protection is made primarily by coating the pipeline, which insulates the pipeline from the adjacent environment. Since coating faults and defects, such as coating pinholes or coating imperfections, are unavoidable, the pipe or pipeline is usually further protected from corrosion by applied cathodic protection. The CP or cathodic protection may be obtained either by impressed current using a rectifier and an anode bed system or by use of sacrificial anodes. The cathodic protection controls the pipe to soil potential to a safe region.

An exchange of alternating current is possible between the soil and the bare metal at coating defects on metallic structures. This applies particularly to carbon steel pipelines for which the level of AC can be significant in the proximity of high voltage electrical power lines, power stations, or traction systems.

A preliminary European Standard prEN 50162 on protection against corrosion by stray current from direct current systems is intended to offer guidance for design of direct current systems which may produce stray currents; for design of metal structures, which are to be buried or immersed, and which may be subject to stray current corrosion; and for the selection of appropriate protection measures.

Table 1 gives the criteria that should be met in order to keep the structure protected from corrosion (the protection potential describes the maximum potential, i.e. in order to keep the structure from corroding, the potential should be kept more negative than the protection potential).

Medium		Free corrosion potential, V CSE	Protection potential (off), V CSE
Water and soil Aerobic conditions	Normal condition	-0,65 to -0,40	-0,85
	Aerated sandy soil $100 < \rho < 1000 \Omega \cdot m$	-0,50 to -0,30	-0,75
	Aerated sandy soil $\rho > 1000 \Omega \cdot m$	-0,40 to -0,20	-0,65
Water and soil Anaerobic conditions		-0,80 to -0,65	-0,95

Table 1. Free corrosion potentials and protection potentials of non-alloy and low alloy Fe-materials in soil and in fresh and salt water according to the EN 12954 standard on cathodic protection of buried or immersed structures. All measured against the Cu/CuSO₄ (CSE) reference electrode.

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According to the EN 12954 standard, structures protected against corrosion by cathodic protection should be deemed to be exposed to unacceptable stray currents if the IR free potential (off potential) is outside the protective potential range defined by EN 12954. Further, to evaluate the acceptability of stray current interference the installation of test probes and coupons should be considered. In situations with fluctuating interference current probe measurements can be used to evaluate the acceptability of interference.

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It is suggested that currents measured between the pipe and the hereto connected probe during a 24 hours period should be compared with current flowing in a well protected system without stray current. Accept criteria are based on time at bad condition and the degree of the bad condition. No direct corrosion rate is measured; however weight loss coupons can be used to further verify the well-functioning of the CP system or the degree to which corrosion occurs due to DC stray current interference. Weight loss coupons are coupons that are electrically coupled to the pipe and exposed in the adjacent soil. The coupon is weighed before such exposure. After an adequate period of time (typically one year or more) the coupons is excavated and brought to the laboratory for cleaning and weighing once again. The weight loss can be used to describe the corrosion. The procedure is rather time consuming and the corrosion condition cannot be detected during the period of exposure, i.e. one has to excavate, bring coupons to the lab and analyse before the result is evident.

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The American National Association of Corrosion Engineers, NACE, also provide standards that are very well respected throughout the world. NACE Standard RP0169 on control of external corrosion on underground or submerged metallic piping systems deals with design, installation and operation and maintenance of anticorrosion measures covering both structural design systems and cathodic protection systems. NACE standard TM0167 deals with measurement techniques related to cathodic

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cathodic protection on underground or submerged metallic piping systems. The cathodic protection criteria are slightly different from the EN standards defined in table 1, since three acceptance criteria can be used.

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No	Criterion (potentials versus CSE electrode)	Additional conditions and remarks
1	-850 mV or more negative on-potential	Significance of the voltage drop shall be considered, e.g. by comparing historical levels of cathodic protection or soil corrosiveness with physical evidence from the pipeline to determine whether corrosion has occurred.
2	-850 mV or more negative off-potential	Most commonly used
3	100 mV cathodic polarization	Especially useful for bare or ineffectively coated pipe and where corrosion potentials may be low (for example 500 mV or less negative) and/or the current needed to meet the negative 850 mV or more negative polarized potential would be considered excessive.

Table 2. Cathodic protection acceptance criteria according to NACE standard procedures.

- 10 A NACE standard recommended practice RP0177 on mitigation of alternating current and lightning effects on metallic structures and corrosion control systems covers personnel safety and protection of equipment rather than deals with the corrosion problem itself. This standard is therefore not considered to be relevant for the detection of AC induced corrosion, but may be useful when the problem has been encountered
- 15 and measures for mitigation of the problem should be implemented.

However neither the NACE or the EN standards covers satisfactorily the AC corrosion problem. CP criteria are based on potential measurements and these are inadequate for coping with AC interference effects on corrosion.

- 5 A set of papers and guidelines that most directly focuses on the AC corrosion problem is the so-called CeoCor Booklet on AC corrosion on cathodically protected pipelines (guidelines for risk assessment and mitigation measures). In this publication, various terms and parameters are discussed regarding their applicability for the AC corrosion detection. In chapter 4 on evaluation of the corrosion risk, it is
- 10 stated that the likelihood of AC corrosion can be evaluated according to either calculating the induced AC level on the pipelines (guidelines are given) or by measurements on site. According to the teachings of the invention, measurements on site are not avoided by making calculations on the level of AC induced on the pipeline, however, these calculations may come prior to the establishment of test
- 15 points and equipment.

Regarding the measurements on site, the CeoCor booklet guide suggest a range of simple preliminary indicative measurements, and three specific measurements to be carried out for the purpose of evaluating AC corrosion risk. The specific measurement

20 techniques include three methods as described in table 3.

No.	Parameter	Method	Evaluation of AC corrosion risk
1	Pipe to soil potential	A steel coupon with known imperfect surface is installed into the soil close to the pipeline, and electrically connected to the pipeline to undergo the cathodic protection current and the AC interference as the pipeline under investigation. The coupon will allow to polarize. A reference electrode will be placed into the soil as close as possible to the coupon. The potential available to the coupon is measured.	Using this measuring technique, the pipeline is considered protected from AC corrosion if the coupon to soil off potential is at any moment more negative than the protective potential range (table 1).

		<p>integrated with the coupon. For measuring purposes the instant off potential (coupon to soil) may be measured by disconnecting the coupon from the pipeline, measuring the potential without IR drop.</p> <p>To perform the measurement automatically a measuring system may be used. This measuring system consists of an electronic recording device that reads and stores data periodically and desynchronized from the AC interferences. The device measures the potential when the coupon is connected to the pipeline (on potential), disconnects the coupon from the pipeline then measures the off potential 1 ms after disconnecting, and connects the coupon to the pipeline again. Together with the on potential the current to the coupon is measured and recorded. Approximately 20 ms afterwards, the cycle is repeated. Due to the desynchronization of the measuring cycle from the AC interference, the measurements will be taken at any time within the AC interference period, including peak values.</p>	
2	AC current density	A steel coupon with known imperfect surface is installed into the soil close to the pipeline, and electrically connected to the pipeline to undergo the cathodic	Using this measuring technique the pipeline is considered protected from AC corrosion if the

		<p>protection current and the AC interference as the pipeline under investigation</p> <p>An ammeter is introduced in the connecting wire to measure the RMS value of the AC current. Small currents should be measured as the voltage drop on a resistor (1 ohm or less) or by using a zero resistance am-meter.</p> <p>The RMS current density is then calculated.</p>	<p>RMS AC current density is lower than 30 A/m².</p>
3	<p>Current density ratio (J_{AC}/J_{DC})</p>	<p>A steel coupon with known imperfect surface is installed into the soil close to the pipeline, and electrically connected to the pipeline to undergo the cathodic protection current and the AC interference as the pipeline under investigation</p> <p>An ammeter is introduced in the connecting wire to measure the DC and the RMS value of the AC current. Small currents should be measured as the voltage drop on a resistor (1 ohm or less) or by using a zero resistance am-meter.</p> <p>From these values, the ratio J_{AC}/J_{DC} is calculated.</p>	<p>Using this measuring technique, if the RMS AC current density to DC current density ratio:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is lower than 3 then the AC corrosion risk is considered to be low - is between 3 and 10 the AC corrosion risk is considered to be medium, and further investigation is advised. - is higher than 10 the AC corrosion risk is considered to be high and immediate mitigation measures should be taken.

Table 6. The specific measuring techniques and their interpretation according to the level of AC corrosion risk.

However, these methods are insufficient and may give false indications.

Methods 1 and 3 indicate that AC induced corrosion can be avoided by further increasing the CP dosage of the rectifier system, and this may lead directly to a worsening of the situation. Method 2 may have some reason, however, since most interference patterns involve large variations of the induced AC voltage throughout the day, the method require a logging of the data over at least a 24h period.

All three methods agree that external coupons are necessary for the evaluation procedure, but none of the methods actually measure the actual corrosion rate on said coupon.

It is further worth noticing that a term known as the spread (or spreading) resistance is defined in the CeoCor booklet. This indicates the Ohmic resistance from pipe via a coating defect to soil or alternatively the Ohmic resistance from a coupon surface to soil. It depends on the area of the coating defect (or active area of the coupon), and the resistivity of the soil present very close to the surface. Since electrolysis occurs right at the surface, the spread resistance is usually very different from the general soil resistivity further away from the surface. The spread resistance of a coupon is normally measured by inserting a large auxiliary electrode into the soil and using a modification of the Wenner four-pin method using a device as described in ASTM G 57-95A standard on soil resistivity measurements. This method provide an excitation current between the auxiliary electrode and the coupon and measures the voltage such created in the measuring circuit. The frequency of the excitation voltage is large enough to avoid polarization of the electrodes, which normally means > 90 Hz.

It is contemplated that this parameter is a very important one, and incorporates a modification of this into the invention as described below.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a novel technique of improved diagnosing corrosion risk of pipes or pipelines buried in soil to specific soil parameters, and electrical fields such as a DC stray current and/or AC voltages induced as a result of paralleling the pipeline with high voltage power lines.

It is an advantage of the present invention that the technique of diagnosing corrosion risk of a pipe or pipeline buried in soil due to DC stray currents and/or AC voltages induced in the soil may be carried out based on a simple combination of current and voltage measurements and calculating specific resistances in accordance with Ohm's Law for determining reproducible parameters readily combinable according to an empirical scheme for diagnosing the corrosion risk.

The technique according to the present invention involves probes electrically connected to the pipeline, and an instrumentation to be installed in a standard measuring post. In a presently preferred embodiment, the instrumentation may control and store data from three such probes. The probes are buried in the soil and the electrical connection to the pipe is made in the instrumentation positioned (for instance) in the standard measuring post.

The probes constitute typically two (or more) metal elements, most often initially identical, built into an ER (electrical resistance) probe. One element (denoted hereafter the coupon element, C) is exposed in the hostile environment and diminishes in thickness due to corrosion. The resistance of the coupon element (RC) changes primarily with thickness and temperature. A second element (denoted hereafter the reference element, R) is shielded from the hostile environment, e.g. by coating. The resistance of the reference element (RR) changes primarily with temperature and the element is used for compensation of this effect. The probe is used for measurements of the corrosion rate and degree of accumulated corrosion according to procedures e.g. described in previous patent application publication number WO 01/42764.

According to a pre-programmed time schedule, the instrument wakes up and performs a series of measurements on the probe(s). Firstly, the AC current (I_{closed}) flowing between the pipe and the individual probe is measured.

Secondly, one probe at a time is disconnected from the pipe, and the AC voltage between the pipe and the probe is measured (V_{open}).

Thirdly, in the disconnected condition, the instrumentation measures the resistance of the (two) elements of an ER probe. Excitation current is passed through the elements, and a data acquisition system picks up the voltages generated across the elements and scales this properly into a measure of the element resistances, R_C and R_R . The electrical connection between the pipe and the probe is then re-established, and the instrumentation continues to address the remaining probes.

For each measurement the following data are stored: Time stamp (t), V_{open} (1 to 3) (AC voltage between pipe and probe), I_{closed} (1 to 3) (AC current resulting for the AC voltage), $R_R(t)$ (channel 1 to 3), $R_C(t)$ (channel 1 to 3)

All data are saved in a build-in data logging facility or transferred to a control centre.

By data processing means, the resistance values of the ER probe elements are then used to calculate element thickness at time t by a mathematical algorithm, for instance:

$$\sigma(t) = \sigma(t=0) \cdot \frac{R_R(t)}{R_C(t)} \cdot \frac{R_C(t=0)}{R_R(t=0)}$$

where ($t = 0$) refers to initial probe conditions. By comparison with initial element thickness, the degree of accumulated corrosion can be calculated and from the slope of a series of measurements the corrosion rate of the element can be calculated.

Temperature drift is eliminated since both elements have the same temperature.

A specific feature of the present invention is therefore to measure corrosion on the probes directly, and not just indicative by selecting electrical parameters (as in the identified standards) that are descriptive of the potential corrosion risk.

The frequency of the electrical parameters V_{open} and I_{closed} are identical to the frequency AC voltage induced on the pipeline e.g. 50Hz. These parameters are used in a diagnostic manner to determine if experienced corrosion can be attributed to induced AC voltage or DC stray currents.

The spread resistance (R_{spread}) of the probe is calculated simply by dividing AC voltage (V_{open}) by AC current (I_{closed}). The spread resistance is a function of the probe element area, the soil conditions, and the electrolysis occurring directly at the probe surfaces due to electrochemical processes. Multiplying by area of the element, a universal diagnostic parameter can be used to characterise the local conditions at the probe surface. A very high spread resistance is indicative of either dry soil conditions or precipitations of resistive films on the surface. Both these conditions are inhibiting AC induced corrosion. A very low spread resistance is a pre-requisite for AC induced corrosion, and - in combination with high AC voltage and a measurable corrosion rate - can be used to diagnose AC induced corrosion.

A specific feature of the present invention is therefore to compare the corrosion condition or corrosion rate as measured by the ER method with the spread resistance of the probe. This spread resistance is normally measured by insertion of auxiliary electrodes and using separate instrumentation for creating an excitation current between the auxiliary electrode and the probe as described in standard ASTM G 57-95A10 for soil resistivity measurements.

In the present invention, the spread resistance is measured simply by making use of the pipe as the auxiliary electrode and using the (on pipe) induced AC voltage for measuring the AC current and consequently determining the spread resistance in accordance with Ohm's law. The frequency is lower (here 50 Hz, 16 2/3 Hz or whatever the frequency of the actually induced AC voltage) than as used in the standard four pin Wenner concept, however, for the purpose of assessing the spread resistance in the region of interest (ranges throughout say 4 decades), a slight polarisation is allowable. Using the frequency actually arising from the voltage on pipe, this version of the spread resistance may even become more relevant than a spread resistance measured according to standard procedures.

Accordingly, the combination of the above-mentioned parameters is very helpful and powerful in diagnosing corrosion risk on one hand and the cause of the corrosion risk on the other hand. The table shows one presently preferred embodiment of the diagnostic method.

Event	Active corrosion	Spread resistance	AC voltage	Diagnose
1	no	high (1-10 Ω m ²)	low (below approx. 10V)	No risk
2	no	high (1-10 Ω m ²)	high (above approx. 10V)	No critical condition but monitor spread resistance further
3	no	low (0.001-0.1 Ω m ²)	low (below approx. 10V)	No critical condition but be aware of increased AC voltage
4	no	low (0.001-0.1 Ω m ²)	high (above approx. 10V)	Risk of AC corrosion incubation period
5	yes	low (0.001-0.1 Ω m ²)	high (above approx. 10V)	AC corrosion – take mitigation actions
6	yes	low (0.001-0.1 Ω m ²)	low (below approx. 10V)	Corrosion may arise from DC stray current
7	yes	high (1-10 Ω m ²)	low (below approx. 10V)	Corrosion may arise from DC stray current
8	yes	high (1-10 Ω m ²)	high (above approx. 10V)	Corrosion may arise from DC stray current

Table 4.

- 5 The spread resistance values may be in the region 0.01 Ω (0.001 Ω) to 10 Ω (100 Ω), and the AC voltage in between 0 and several hundred volts, however, in the Danish sector, the voltage should be kept below 50 V for human safety reasons. A “high” AC voltage may be as low as e.g. 10 V.

The logging of data should be made so as to detect daily variations in the induced AC voltage, whether this is realised by logging once every hour or by logging e.g. every 24 + dt hour, where dt is an amount of time ensuring that measurements eventually are taken and stored for time stamps representing the entire day.

The signal from each of the probes may be converted from analogue to digital signals using an analogue-to-digital converter (ADC) for processing the signals in a digital processing unit such as micro controller or micro processor. ADC's are well known to persons skilled in the art and will not be discussed further.

The present invention will now be described with reference to the appended figures, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a schematic representation of a measurement system according to the present invention,

Fig. 2a is a schematic representation of the electrical connections in a measuring system according to the present invention,

Fig. 2b is a schematic representation of the current excitation circuit in a measuring system according to the present invention,

Fig. 3 illustrates a graphical user interface for displaying status of a measuring system according to the present invention,

Fig. 4 illustrates a graphical user interfaces for probe configuration,

Fig. 5 illustrates a graphical user interface including a summary of the set-up for each of the probes,

Fig. 6 illustrates a graphical user interface displaying a summary of measured and calculated data.

Fig. 1 illustrates the schematic set-up of the measurement system according to the present invention. The measurement system 10 is placed inside a measuring post 12. Measuring posts are placed along high pressure pipelines such as illustrated by a place of a pipeline 14 buried beneath the surface of the ground 16. As the pipelines are usually placed along high voltage power lines, one measuring post 12

may also comprise measuring instruments for measuring and monitoring the performers of the high voltage power lines.

5 The measurement system 10 has at least one electrical connection to the buried pipeline 14 constituted by an electrical wire 18. Buried in the ground, preferably parallel to the pipeline 14 are at least one probe and preferably three probes designated the numerals 20, 22, 24.

10 The measuring system 10 may also be placed in a specialised post separate from the standard measuring post 12.

15 Fig. 2a is a schematic representation of the measurement system 10. In the presently preferred embodiment of the present invention, the measurement system 10 is electrically connected to three separate probes 20, 22 and 24, each connected to a processing unit 26. In the presently preferred embodiment of the present invention, each of the sensors 20, 22, 24 is not directly coupled to the processing unit 26. Each of the sensors 20, 22, 24 is connected to a corresponding two wire balanced wire 28, 30, 32, which ensures that external electrical noise only has a minimal influence on the electrical signal travelling through each of the wires 28, 30, 20 32.

Each of the wires 28, 30, 32 is coupled to a corresponding differential analogue to a digital converter 34, 36, 38. The AD converter converts the analogue signal representing the voltage measured from each of the probes 20, 22 and 24.

25 Each of the probes 20, 22, 24 is supplied with 5 volt through a 20 ohm reference resistor 40, 42, 44. The common mode current of the probe will be approximately 2.5 volt, which is within the AD converter's common mode region.

30 The wires 28, 30, 32 may be constituted by wires having a diameter of 0.14 mm², alternatively a diameter of 0.25 mm². In the presently preferred embodiment of the present invention, the cables are made from a material having a specific resistance of 0.01725 ohm x mm²/m. Having a wire of the length of 30 m results in a total

resistance of 7.4 ohm using a cable with a diameter of 0.14 mm² and 4.74 ohm using a wire having a diameter of 0.25 mm².

5 The circuitry shown in Fig. 2a further includes a current excitation block 46 connected to each of the AD converters 34, 36, 38 through a respective high value resistor 48, 50 and 52, respectively. The current excitation block 46 is further connected to a voltage reference 54.

10 The circuitry shown in Fig. 2a also includes a central processor constituted by a CPU designated the reference numeral 56, which is connectable to an external data logger such as a computer through an RS-232 port.

15 In Fig. 2b, an electronic circuitry is shown illustrating in greater details the current excitation circuit and includes identification of the various components in terms of type and value. No detailed description of the circuitry is given, as the circuitry is believed to be entirely self-explanatory.

20 In the presently preferred embodiment of the present invention, the measurement system 10 does not include a user interface such as a screen or display for outputting measurement results to a user. However, the system 10 includes, in the presently preferred embodiment of the present invention, a serial RS-232 port for reading out stored results from the memory of the system to an external data collecting source such as a computer.

25 Alternatively, the system may include other means for establishing communication between the measurement system 10 and an external data collecting source, such as a centralised surveillance system constituted by a server having a graphical user interface with the option of surveying and controlling several measuring posts in real time or near real time.

30 The communication between the measurement system 10 and the data collecting source may be conducted by a GPRS module, wireless network, LAN, satellite

networks or a direct connection to a publicly switch telephone network, such as a digital subscriber line or the like.

5 The establishment of a centralised computer network may eliminate the need for sending out personnel to each of the measurement posts. However, establishing a large data network may be more expensive depending on the existing infrastructure.

10 The measurement system 10 may be pre-configured from the factory, but may preferably be configured for the individual need at the specific measuring post, wherein the system is installed. For easing the configuration of the system, a graphical user interface may be installed on an external computer such as a laptop operated by a technician installing the system at a specific measuring post.

15 As previously discussed, the connection between the external computer, e.g. laptop, may be constituted by wires or wireless connections, such as LAN, USB, fire wire (IEEE 1394), Bluetooth, RS-232 or similar connectors and connecting methods and communication protocols obvious to those skilled in the art.

20 Fig. 3 illustrates a graphical user interface for displacing the status of the data logging system of the measuring system 10. The logger status window 100 displays the serial number 102 for identifying the measuring system. Also displayed is a firmware version number 104 for the technician to ensure that the latest firmware version is installed on the system.

25 The technician also needs to ensure that the logger time, i.e. the time registered in the embedded system in the measuring device, is correct compared to the actual time. The technician may verify this by inspecting the logger time and the PC time as indicated at the numerals 106 and 108, respectively, of Fig. 3. The window also displays the number of data sets 110 recorded in the logger. The maximum number
30 of data sets that may be recorded in the system at one time is limited by the amount of memory installed in the system. Presenting to the technician a number representing either the amount of free memory in kilobytes or number of data sets is displayed in the field 112 of the window 100.

As the measuring system may be powered by a battery source, an indication of the voltage available from the battery 114 is displayed. The technician may force the numbers displayed in the window 100 to be updated or refreshed by operating the button 116.

The technician operating the system may define how often the measuring system 10 should sample the probes 20, 22, 24 by setting a number in the box 118 corresponding to either a number of minutes, hours, days or weeks or months. The period being selected from a drop down box 120. The technician may further choose the time when the measuring system 10 should conduct the first sampling by choosing either of the radio buttons 122 or 124.

As the system has a limited amount of memory, the technician may choose to override old data or stop logging new data when the memory has been filled with data sets. The choice may be constituted by choosing a corresponding radio button 126 or 128. In the presently preferred embodiment of the present invention, the measuring system 10 comprises 3 probes, i.e. 3 connectors for receiving signals from at least 3 probes, and the technician has an option of choosing which of the 3 connectors/probes to sample data from. The choice may be made by checking a corresponding check box 130, 132 or 134.

Each of the probes selected or activated by clicking either of the check boxes 130, 132, 134 may be set up in a corresponding set-up window 136, 138, 140, illustrated in Fig. 4. Each of the windows 136, 138, 140 comprises a probe serial number 142 indication and a probe type indication 144. The probe type 144 may determine the initial data to be filled into the boxes 146, 148, 150, 152 presenting respectively area, initial thickness, certificate R_r and certificate R_c . Each of the set-up windows 136, 138, 140 further comprises an initial resistance data section 154 comprising data collected from each of the probes at the initiation of the system 10.

During configuration of the system the user technician may choose to which condition the probes are placed and on which conditions and environment the control

the calculations and determine the state of the pipe. As indicated in the box 156, the probe may be a new probe 158 possibly placed above ground and the initial resistance data may be recorded. Alternatively, the probe may be exposed to the environment and the radio button 160 should be selected. The program then uses the initial resistance data collected when the system was first configured. If no initial resistance data is available the radio button 162 may be chosen, the programme then utilise the factory data available from the prototype indication.

As the technician has configured the system using the graphical user interface of Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, the set-up may be downloaded to the system 10.

In Fig. 5, a summary of the set-up is displayed for each of the probes in the boxes 164, 166, 168. As illustrated in box 168, it is indicated to the technician that no probe has been selected. In the box 170, a summary of the frequency of the logging is displayed, also an estimation of how long the system is able to log information before the memory is full is displayed.

Fig. 6 illustrates a window 172 displaying data collected from a number of probes showing the time and date in a column 174 indicating when the event occurred.

Also displayed are columns comprising the voltage 176, current 178, spread resistance 180, resistance of the two parts of the electrical resistance probe named Rr 182, Rc 184 and the remaining element thickness D 186.

The thickness of the probe is determined according to the following equation:

$$d = \left(\frac{R_C(t_0)}{R_R(t_0)} \cdot \frac{R_R(t)}{R_C(t)} \right) \cdot 100$$

The embedded software in the system 10 controls the data logging and the power control of the system as well as sampling from each of the channels each representing a probe. In the presently preferred embodiment of the present invention, the user software is implemented on a windows platform and is used for

setting up the data logger by setting the sampling interval and the clock. The user software uploads data from the data logger and calculates the element thickness, i.e. the decay of the probe. The user software also exports the uploaded data into a spread sheet compatible format, so that the data may be investigated or processed in such a spreadsheet.

The user software may include calibration software for downloading embedded software into the data logger and run specific tests and calibration routines and subsequently printing out or delivering a calibration certificate.

The user software may further include test software for viewing and configuring registers in the data logger for test purposes and reading out the raw and/or calculated data contained in the data logger. It is obvious to a technician skilled in the art that the calibration and test software may be supplied in one, two or three separate software packages with different user access rights if this may be more convenient or safe.

When powered up, the datalogger (ESW) will run with the saved settings.

On power up the ESW wakes up and reads settings. If a new probe is installed no values for $R_R(t_0)$ and $R_C(t_0)$ exist, and they first have to be measured and saved. They are not used in the logger, but will be used later, when data are uploaded for thickness calculations.

If $R_R(t_0)$ and $R_C(t_0)$ already exist in the setting, they will be saved with this.

On the user specified intervals the ESW wakes up by an interrupt from the Real Time Clock, performs a measurement on each of the user specified channels and measures Spread Resistance parameters (V_{open} and I_{closed}).

For each measurement the following data are stored:

- Time stamp (t)
- V_{open} (V) (0-2V) voltage between pipe and probe
- I_{closed} (mA) (0-20mA)

- $R_R(t)$ (ch. 1 to 3)
- $R_C(t)$ (ch. 1 to 3)

All data are saved in Non Volatile memory and ESW is returning to sleep mode.

- 5 In case of power off ESW will stop logging as long as the power is off, but the logging will continue when it is reestablished.

The logger is connected to a PC and powered up. UPSW is started and used to set up the datalogger.

- 10 The user can enter data for the each probe:

	Datatype	Range	default
Channel no. (1 - 3)	Flag in Sequence menu	1 - 3	
Probe type name (16 Characters)	Ascii		blank
Initial $R_R(t_0)$ $R_C(t_0)$ (from certificate)	Num	1.00 - 640.00	0
Initial thickness d_0 (μm)	Num	1-1000	100
Surface area A (cm^2)	Num	0.1 -	10
Probe serial no. (10 characters)	Ascii/Num	AA00000000 ZZ99999999	
Probe tag. no. (8 characters)	Ascii		blank
Probe text (80 characters)	Ascii		blank

The probe data also includes

	Datatype	Range	default
Initial $R_R(t_0)$ $R_C(t_0)$ (measured) ($\text{m}\Omega$)	Num	1,00 - 640,00	20,00
Measurement data	See paragraph on data representation		
Serial no. of the logger used	Ascii/Num	AA00000000 ZZ99999999	blank
Record Date	DD-MM-YYYY, HH:MM		-- -- -- --:--

Each probe channel is set up with the parameters

Log this probe (Yes or No)

- 5 • New probe (Yes or No).
 - If Yes, the no data for initial $R_R(t_0)$ and $R_C(t_0)$ are downloaded.
 - If No the user can choose between
 - $R_R(t_0)$ $R_C(t_0)$ are copied from certificate to measured $R_R(t_0)$ $R_C(t_0)$
 - 10 ▪ Enter new initial $R_R(t_0)$ and $R_C(t_0)$

Measurement Settings (all probes)

- Action on overflow (Overwrite old data or stop sampling)
- Start time (On next power up or specific Time)
- 15 • Sampling interval (1 hour to 1 month)

When set up is finished, the user is given the total logging period, until memory will be full.

- 20 The Real Time Clock in the datalogger is synchronized with the PC clock when the sequence is downloaded to the logger.

- 25 Before disconnecting the datalogger from PC a "Measurement Check" can be performed to ensure that the logger is running correctly. This measurement is performed as fast as possible and is not saved as a result in the logging series.

The datalogger can now be powered off and installed on location.

- 30 The probe data are saved in a file identified by the probe serial number (probe file).

ESW can be worked up by connecting a PC to the RS232 interface. The data can be uploaded to the UFRW.

In normal upload, only one datalogging series can be uploaded.

Data can be uploaded while the logging sequence is still running or in "pause" mode, but data in logger will still be labeled as "not uploaded", as soon as 1 new measurement has been performed.

On upload from a stopped logger, data will be labeled as "uploaded". Same data can be uploaded again until a new sequence is started.

A "Status" request gives the condition of the datalogger and doesn't affect the logging.

Data representation.

UPSW presents the data tabulated (and graphical).

From the raw values, that are uploaded UPSW calculates thickness (d) and Spread Resistance (R_s) for each probe.

d is the remaining element thickness at time t:

$$d(t) = \left(\frac{R_C(t_0)}{R_R(t_0)} \cdot \frac{R_R(t)}{R_C(t)} \right) \cdot d_0 \text{ } [\mu\text{m}]$$

Ranges:

R_C & R_R : 0 - 640m Ω

d: 1 – 1000 μm or disconnected

Resolution

R_C & R_R : 0,01m Ω

d: 0,1 μm

When the pipe has an induced AC-voltage, the resistance between the pipe and each probe (R_s) can be calculated:

$$R_s = \frac{U_{open} [V]}{I_{closed} [A]} \cdot A [cm^2] \cdot \frac{1}{10.000} \left[\frac{m^2}{cm^2} \right] [\Omega \cdot m^2]$$

Ranges:

5 U_{open} : 1V – 180V (RMS)

I_{closed} : 3 μ A – 600mA

A: 0,1 - 50 cm² (Entered value)

R_s : 0,0003 $\Omega \cdot m^2$ - 1500 $\Omega \cdot m^2$ (R=30 Ω – 300k Ω)

10 **Resolution:**

U_{open} : 1mV_{RMS}

I_{closed} : 1 μ A

A: 0,1 cm²

R_s : Logarithmic with 3 significant numbers (dependent on the levels of U_{open} and

15 I_{closed} & A).

Logging interval: Data are as default measured and logged once every week.

Interval be set from 1 minute to 99 weeks.

20 Data storage: 1800 sets of data from 3 probes.

UPSW can export data in a tabulator-separated format for use in spreadsheets.

25 The Calibration software (CPSW) runs through a number of specific tests to verify the datalogger hardware and to certify the measurement performance.

The following tasks are to be performed

- Load embedded software
- Test memory access
- Test FITC access

- Calibrate R_R and R_C for Channel 1 to 3. Wait for change of reference probe by operator.
- Calibrate R_s measurement for each channel.
- If calibration results are within limits, save and print certificate.

5

All measurement data are logged in a file and can be retrieved for evaluation.

10 The graphical user interface, as illustrated in the figures 3-5 may be implemented on any platform such as Windows, Unix, Linux or alternatively a proprietary operating system. Further alternatively, the graphical user interface may be implemented using HTML, dHTML, XML, CGI, JAVA or any other programming language.

1. DIN 50 929 part 3, Probability of corrosion of metallic materials when subjected to corrosion from the outside.
2. EN 12954, Cathodic protection of buried or immersed metallic structures – General principles and application for pipelines.
3. EN 13509, Cathodic protection measurements techniques.
4. prEN 50162, Protection against corrosion by stray current from direct current systems.
5. NACE Standard RP0169-96, Standard Recommended Practice: Control of External Corrosion on Underground or Submerged Metallic Piping Systems.
6. NACE Standard TM0497-97, Standard Test Method: Measurement Techniques Related to Criteria for Cathodic Protection on Underground or Submerged Metallic Piping Systems.
7. NACE Standard RP0177-2000, Standard Recommended Practice: Mitigation of Alternating Current and Lightning Effects on Metallic Structures and Corrosion Control Systems.
8. CeoCor Booklet, AC Corrosion on Cathodically Protected Pipelines – Guidelines for Risk Assessment and Mitigation Measures. (Proc 5th International Congress, Bruxelles 2000).
9. ASTM G 57-95A (Reapproved 2001): Standard Test Method for Field Measurement of Soil Resistivity Using the Wenner Four-Electrode Method.
10. International Patent Application, PCT/DK00/00689, publication number WO 01/42764, Method and Apparatus for Measuring Accumulated and Instant Rate of Material Loss or Material Gain,
11. General reference: Handbook of Cathodic Corrosion Protection, Theory and Practice of Electrochemical Protection Processes, 3rd edition, W. Von Baeckmann, W. Schwenk, and W. Prinz, Editors, Gulf Publishing (1997).

MetriCorr ApS

Requirement Specification

Corrosion Detector

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2. Revisions

V010: 170603:	Draft edition by Folke Galsgaard
V020: 190603:	Reviewed by Lars Vendelbo Nielsen
V030: 120903:	No. of probes changed to 3
	Spread Resistance specifications changed.

3. Corrosion Detector

"Corrosion Detector" is a datalogger for measuring the environmental corrosivity.

3.1. Functional requirements

Connection of 1 to 3 HSER (High Sensitive Electrical Resistance) probes.

Corrosion Detector is measuring the resistance of the two parts of a HSER probe named R_R and R_C . A value of the remaining element thickness is calculated.

The potential between the pipe and the probes is equalized through the instrument. The spread resistances between the pipe and each probe (R_S) are regularly measured and logged.

3.2. User interface

The Corrosion Detector works as a data logger. Data can be uploaded to a computer and saved as a tabulator separated file. Data analysis can be done in a spreadsheet (e.g. Excel).

The unit of the data is % of the initial value of R_C . The values are paired with a timestamp.

3.3. Design requirements

The instrument is cased in a cabinet with the dimensions
 $L \times W \times H = 165 \times 80 \times 32$ mm.

The 3 probe connectors are placed in one end of the case and the power inlet and communication connector in the other.

3.4. Specifications

3.4.1. Element thickness measurement

Remaining element thickness (d):

Range: 100% – 20%
Resolution: 0,1% (1 ppt)
Accuracy: $\pm 1\%$ (± 10 ppt)

Specified for a probe with $R_C(t_0) = 100\text{m}\Omega$

d is the remaining element thickness compared with the initial value.

$$d = \left(\frac{R_C(t_0)}{R_R(t_0)} \cdot \frac{R_R(t)}{R_C(t)} \right) \cdot 100 \text{ [%]}$$

Cable length: max. 30m

3.4.2. Spread Resistance

When the pipe has an induced AC-voltage, the resistance between the pipe and each probe (R_S) is calculated and logged with every thickness measurement.
 R_S is calculated as

$$R_S = \frac{U_{open}}{I_{short}}$$

Ranges:

U_{open} : 1V – 180V (RMS)

I_{short} : 3 μ A – 600mA

R_S : 300 Ω – 300k Ω

Resolution:

U_{open} : 1mV_{RMS}

I_{short} : 3 μ A

R_S : Depending on the levels of U_{open} and I_{short}

Examples: $U_{open} = 1\text{ V}$, $I_{short} = 3\mu\text{A}$: $R_S = 333\text{k}\Omega$, $\Delta R_S = 167\text{k}\Omega$
 $U_{open} = 1\text{ V}$, $I_{short} = 6\mu\text{A}$: $R_S = 167\text{k}\Omega$, $\Delta R_S = 111\text{k}\Omega$
 $U_{open} = 1\text{ V}$, $I_{short} = 100\mu\text{A}$: $R_S = 10\text{k}\Omega$, $\Delta R_S = 300\Omega$
 $U_{open} = 1\text{ V}$, $I_{short} = 1\text{mA}$: $R_S = 1\text{k}\Omega$, $\Delta R_S = 3\Omega$
 $U_{open} = 1\text{ V}$, $I_{short} = 3,3\text{mA}$: $R_S = 300\Omega$, $\Delta R_S = 2\Omega$

$U_{open} = 20\text{ V}$, $I_{short} = 67\mu\text{A}$: $R_S = 300\text{k}\Omega$, $\Delta R_S = 15\text{k}\Omega$
 $U_{open} = 20\text{ V}$, $I_{short} = 67\text{mA}$: $R_S = 300\Omega$, $\Delta R_S = 15\text{m}\Omega$

3.4.3. Data storage

Update rate: Data are measured and logged once every week.

Data storage: 100 set of data from 3 probes giving approximately 2 years monitoring period.

Power supply

The instrument is supplied from an external 12V_{DC} supply, either from an adaptor or a lead battery.

Power consumption: 1W (Average)

3.4.4. Communication

RS232 interface.

3.4.5. Environment conditions

Operation temperature: -30°C to 50°C (-86°F to 122°F)

Humidity : 0 to 90%RH

Enclosure: IP50

3.5. Approvals

The following directives and standards will be met:

EMC-requirements

CE marking in accordance to EMC-directive 89/336/EEC

Following the standards

- EN61326-1: 1997 *Electrical equipment for measuring, process control and laboratory use.*
- Amendment A1:1998 to EN 61326:1997
- Amendment A2:2001 to EN 61326:1997

Electrical safety

Low voltage directive 73/23/EØF

Following the standard

- EN61010-1: Electrical safety
- When powered from a 12V_{DC} supply no requirements in EN61010 are required.

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Software Requirement Specification

AC Corrosion Detector

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2. Revisions

V010: 021203:	Draft edition by Folke Galsgaard
V020: 031203:	Reviewed by LVN
V030: 041203:	Several changes
V040: 091203:	Changes after initial meeting with Ramtex
V100: 110104:	Document release

3. Introduction

"AC Corrosion Detector" (ACD) is a data logger for assessment of the corrosion risk along buried high-pressure gas transmission pipelines due to a combined effect of soil chemistry and electrical parameters (induced AC voltage – DC stray currents) .

Connection of 1 to 3 ER (Electrical Resistance) probes.

ACD is measuring the resistance of the two parts of an ER probe named R_R and R_C . A value of the remaining element thickness is calculated.

The potential between the pipe and the probes is equalized through the instrument. The spread resistances between the pipe and each probe (R_s) are regularly measured and logged.

4. General software specifications

The software for the AC Corrosion Detector consists of the following 4 parts¹.

Embedded software (ESW)

- Control of the datalogging including power control and sampling from each channel using a downloaded setup.
- Saving "raw" data in the logger memory
- Upload of data via RS232
- Synchronizing Real Time clock with PC.

User PC software (UPSW)

- Windows platform
- Setting up the datalogger (sampling interval, clock)
- Uploading data from datalogger and calculate element thickness (decay).
- Exporting data in a spreadsheet compatible format.

Calibration software PC software (CPSW)

- Windows platform
- Download ESW software to datalogger
- Run through a specific production test and calibration
- Printout a calibration certificate.

Test software (TPSW)

- Windows platform
- Viewing and setting registers in the datalogger for test purposes.
- Readout of "raw" and calculated data.
- Download the ESW software to datalogger

¹ The 3 PC software parts could be part of the same "package" and separated with different user access rights, if this is the most convenient.

5. Embedded software (ESW)

The embedded software (ESW) shall control the data logging functions, calculate the probe data and on command transmit data to the PC. The data logging functions includes power management of the data acquisition and the CPU.

5.1. *Datalogging*

When powered up, the datalogger (ESW) will run with the saved settings.

On power up the ESW wakes up and reads settings. If a new probe is installed no values for $R_R(t_0)$ and $R_C(t_0)$ exist, and they first have to be measured and saved. They are not used in the logger, but will be used later, when data are uploaded for thickness calculations.

If $R_R(t_0)$ and $R_C(t_0)$ already exist in the setting, they will be saved with this.

On the user specified intervals the ESW wakes up by an interrupt from the Real Time Clock, performs a measurement on each of the user specified channels and measures Spread Resistance parameters (V_{open} and I_{closed}).

For each measurement the following data are stored:

- Time stamp (t)
- V_{open} (1 to 3) (AC voltage between pipe and probe)
- I_{closed} (1 to 3)
- $R_R(t)$ (ch. 1 to 3)
- $R_C(t)$ (ch. 1 to 3)

All data are saved in Non Volatile memory and ESW is returning to sleep mode.

In case of power off ESW will stop logging as long as the power is off, but the logging will continue when it is reestablished.

5.1.1. LED indication

The LED indicator shall give information of the logger mode.

Logger Mode	Frequency	On time	Duration
Power up and no logging sequence activated:	-	5 s	5 s
RS232 connection detected	-	20 s	20 s or communication started
Upload or download	2 s	1 s	On communication
Performing "Fast measurement"	0,5 s	100 ms	Until data is sent to PC
Start logging	2 s	500 ms	2 min. then constant off.

5.2. Data upload

ESW can be waked up by connecting a PC to the RS232 interface. The data can be uploaded to the UPSW.

5.3. Hardware description

The data logger hardware is built around the μ Processor Renesas H8S/2239.

Detailed description of the hardware is found in the document
HYPERLINK..[Hardware\AC Corrosion Detector hardware description V100.doc](#)

6. User PC Software (UPSW)

6.1. Setting up and starting the datalogger

The logger is connected to a PC and powered up. UPSW is started and used to set up the datalogger.

The user can enter data for the each probe:

	Datatype	Range	default
Channel no. (1 - 3)	Flag in Sequence menu	1 - 3	
Probe type name (16 Characters)	Ascii		blank
Initial $R_R(t_0)$ $R_C(t_0)$ (from certificate)	Num	1.00 - 640.00	0
Initial thickness d_0 (μ m)	Num	1-1000	100
Surface area A (cm^2)	Num	0.1 -	10
Probe serial no. (10 characters)	Ascii/Num	AA00000000 ZZ99999999	
Probe tag. no. (8 characters)	Ascii		blank

Probe text (80 characters)	Ascii		blank
----------------------------	-------	--	-------

The probe data also includes

	Datatype	Range	default
Initial $R_R(t_0)$ $R_C(t_0)$ (measured) ($m\Omega$)	Num	1,00 - 640,00	20,00
Measurement data	See 6.3 Data presentation		
Serial no. of the logger used	Ascii/Num	AA00000000 ZZ99999999	blank
Record Date	DD-MM-YYYY, HH:MM		-- -- ---- --:--

Each probe channel is set up with the parameters

Log this probe (Yes or No)

- New probe (Yes or No).
 - If Yes, the no data for initial $R_R(t_0)$ and $R_C(t_0)$ are downloaded.
 - If No the user can choose between
 - $R_R(t_0)$ $R_C(t_0)$ are copied from certificate to measured $R_R(t_0)$ $R_C(t_0)$
 - Enter new initial $R_R(t_0)$ and $R_C(t_0)$

Measurement Settings (all probes)

- Action on overflow (Overwrite old data or stop sampling)
- Start time (On next power up or specific Time)
- Sampling interval (1 hour to 1 month)

When set up is finished, the user is given the total logging period, until memory will be full.

The Real Time Clock in the datalogger is synchronized with the PC clock when the sequence is downloaded to the logger.

Before disconnecting the datalogger from PC a "Measurement Check" can be performed to ensure that the logger is running correctly. This measurement is performed as fast as possible and is not saved as a result in the logging series.

The datalogger can now be powered off and installed on location.

The probe data are saved in a file identified by the probe serial number (probe file).

6.2. Data upload

ESW can be waked up by connecting a PC to the RS232 interface. The data can be uploaded to the UPSW.

In normal upload, only one datalogging series can be uploaded.

Data can be uploaded while the logging sequence is still running or in "pause" mode, but data in logger will still be labeled as "not uploaded", as soon as 1 new measurement has been performed.

On upload from a stopped logger, data will be labeled as "uploaded". Same data can be uploaded again until a new sequence is started.

A "Status" request gives the condition of the datalogger and doesn't affect the logging.

6.3. Data presentation

UPSW presents the data tabulated (and graphical).

From the raw values, that are uploaded UPSW calculates thickness (d) and Spread Resistance (R_s) for each probe.

6.3.1. Probe element thickness

d is the remaining element thickness

$$d(t) = \left(\frac{R_C(t_0)}{R_R(t_0)} \cdot \frac{R_R(t)}{R_C(t)} \right) \cdot d_0 \text{ } [\mu\text{m}]$$

Ranges:

R_C & R_R : 0 - 640m Ω
d: 1 - 1000 μm or disconnected

Resolution

R_C & R_R : 0,01m Ω
d: 0,1 μm

6.3.2. Spread Resistance

When the pipe has an induced AC-voltage, the resistance between the pipe and each probe (R_s) can be calculated:

$$R_s = \frac{U_{open} [V]}{I_{closed} [A]} \cdot A [cm^2] \cdot \frac{1}{10.000} \left[\frac{m^2}{cm^2} \right] [\Omega \cdot m^2]$$

Ranges:

U_{open} : 1V - 180V (RMS)
 I_{closed} : 3 μA - 600mA
A: 0,1 - 50 cm² (Entered value)
 R_s : 0,0003 $\Omega \cdot m^2$ - 1500 $\Omega \cdot m^2$ (R=30 Ω - 300k Ω)

Resolution:

U_{open} : 1mV_{RMS}

I_{closed} : 1 μ A

A: 0,1 cm²

R_s : Logarithmic with 3 significant numbers (dependent on the levels of U_{open} and I_{closed} & A).

6.3.3. Data storage

Logging interval: Data are as default measured and logged once every week. Interval be set from 1 minute to 99 weeks.

Data storage: 1800 sets² of data from 3 probes .

UPSW can export data in a tabulator separated format for use in spreadsheets.

7. Calibration software PC software (CPSW)

The Calibration software (CPSW) runs through a number of specific tests to verify the datalogger hardware and to certify the measurement performance.

The following tasks are to be performed

- Load embedded software
- Test memory access
- Test RTC access
- Calibrate R_R and R_C for Channel 1 to 3. Wait for change of reference probe by operator.
- Calibrate R_s measurement for each channel.
- If calibration results are within limits, save and print certificate.

All measurement data are logged in a file and can be retrieved for evaluation.

8. Test software (TPSW)

The test software shall run as the user software (UPSW) but with access to more data (raw data) and with access to setting up the some of the parameters in the datalogger.

Set up parameters

- ADC (1-3) set-up as
 - Data Rate,
 - Input Range,

- Delay time,
 - TARE DAC,
 - AC excitation,
 - number of samples (1 to 2000)
 - Perform Internal Zero scale
 - Perform Internal Full Scale calibration
 - Perform External Full scale calibration
- ADC (0)
 - Data Rate
 - Input Range
 - number of samples (1 to 5000)
- Force power on channel 0 - 3

Measurements

Raw Data

- V_{open}
 - ADC0 (Channel 1 to 3)
- I_{closed}
 - ADC0 channel 0
- $R_R(t)$
 - ADC 1 to 3
- $R_C(t)$
 - ADC 1 to 3

The logger can be set to

Single step measurement sequence.

Continuously measuring as fast as possible

MetriCorr ApS

AC Corrosion Detector Hardware description

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2. Revisions

090104: V100: First issue made by Folke Galsgaard
290104: V110: Com_Power on CPU port 72.
Memory allocation updated

3. Introduction

This document describes the hardware in the AC Corrosion Detector and how it is accessed by the embedded software.

4. CPU

The CPU is a Renesas H8S/2239

Operating Frequency ϕ = 8MHz

4.1. Memory

384kB on chip Flash memory

32 kB on chip Static RAM

64 kB E²PROM (M24512)

H8S/2239 normally runs in single chip operating mode (7) using on chip memory, but for emulation and debugging on chip ROM can be disabled and instead 512kB external memory addressed by setting operating mode 5.

Probe Setup and calibration data: 124 Bytes x 3 probes = 372 Bytes

Measurements:	R _C : 0,0 to 600,0 mΩ	2Bytes
	R _R : 0,0 to 600,0 mΩ	2Bytes
	I _{closed} : 0,000 – 700,000mA _{RMS}	4 Bytes
	U _{open} : 0,00 – 195,00V _{RMS}	4 Bytes
Memory per measurement 1 probe:		12 Bytes
	Time stamp:	2 Bytes
	Power measurement	2 Bytes
		1 Byte
Common data		5 Bytes

1500 measurements memory space = (12x3+5)1500 = 61500 Bytes

Extra memory space: 65536-372-61500 = 3664 Bytes

4.2. Jumper Settings

	0 (Jumper)	1 (No Jumper)
JP1, Download/debug (FWE)	See. H8S2239 manual section 19	Flash Protected

	0 (Jumper)	1 (No Jumper)
JP2, Reset	Reset (rising edge)	Release

JP3 (MD2) Boot mode	JP4 (MD1) Ext. PROM	
0	0	-
0	1	Boot mode
1	0	Mode 5, On chip ROM disabled
1	1	Mode 7, Single chip mode

Table 1. JP3 and JP4 settings

4.3. Communication

The E²PROM is addressed on the I²C interface and has the slave address 1010111 followed by the direction bit (R/W_o).

The CPU communicates with the ADCs with SPI interface. The required transfer rates are: ADC0 samples with 1008Hz giving a bitrate of 24.2kb/s.

ADC1-3 samples with up to 400 Hz giving of bitrate of 9.6kb/s

The interface is a "Clocked Synchronous Mode". The Bit Rate Register (BBR) is set to 50kb/s. For $\phi=8\text{MHz}$: $n=0$ og $N=39$.

4.4. I/O ports

Pin	CPU port	I/O	Name	Function/Setting
1	PE5/D5	O PE5DDR=1 PE5DR=1	Relay2_open	Opens Relay2 (H)
2	PE/D6	O PE6DDR=1 PE6DR=1	Relay3_open	Opens Relay3 (H)
3	PE7/D7	O PE7DDR=1 PE7DR=1	RTS	
4	PD0/D8	Data	D0	
5	PD1/D9	Data	D1	
6	PD2/D10	Data	D2	
7	PD3/D11	Data	D3	
8	PD4/D12	Data	D4	
9	PD5/D13	Data	D5	
10	PD6/D14	Data	D6	
11	PD7/D15	Data	D7	
12	-		CVCC	
13	PC0/A0	Address	A0	
14	-		V _{EE}	

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Pin	CPU port	I/O	Name	Function/Setting
15	PC1/A1	Address	A1	
16	PC2/A2	Address	A2	
17	PC3/A3	Address	A3	
18	PC4/A4	Address	A4	
19	PC5/A5	Address	A5	
20	PC6/A6	Address	A6	
21	PC7/A7	Address	A7	
22	PB0/A8/TIOCA3	Address	A8	
23	PB1/A9/TIOCB3	Address	A9	
24	PB2/A10/TIOCC3	Address	A10	
25	PB3/A11/TIOCD3	Address	A11	
26	PB4/A12/TIOCA4	Address	A12	
27	PB5/A13/TIOCB4	Address	A13	
28	PB6/A14/TIOCA5	Address	A14	
29	PB7/A15/TIOCB5	Address	A15	
30	PA0/A16	Address	A16	
31	PA1/A17/TxD2	Address	A17	
32	PA2/A18/RxD2	Address	A18	
33	PA3/A19/SCK2	Open Drain PA3DDR=1 PA3ODR=1 CKE0=0 CKE1=0 C/A=0	Power3_EN	Enables Power for ADC3
34	P10/TIOCA0/DACK0/A20	Out P10DDR=1 SAE0=0	RESET_ADC	Resets selected ADC
35	P11/TIOCB0/DACK1/A21	In P11DDR=0 SAE1=0		
36	P12/TIOCC0/TCLKA/A22	Out P12DDR=1		-
37	P13/TIOCD0/TCLKB/A23	Out P13DDR=1		-
38	P14/TIOCA1/IRQ0_	Out P14DDR=1 In P14DDR=0	SDA	SDA (I ² C)
39	P15/TIOCB1/TCLKC	Out P15DDR=1	SCL	SCL (I ² C)
40	P16/TIOCA2/IRQ1\	Out P16DDR=1	EE_WC_	E ² PROM write Operations disabled (H)
41	P17/TIOCB2/TCLKD	Out P17DDR=1		-
42	-		AVSS	-
43	P97/DA1	In		

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Pin	CPU port	I/O	Name	Function/Setting
44	P96/DA0	In		
45	P47/AN7	In		VCC
46	P46/AN6	In		
47	P45/AN5	In	Input_Voltage	Input on ADC 0,154 X V _{input} (FS=21,4V)
48	P44/AN4	In		
49	P43/AN3	In		
50	P42/AN2	In		
51	P41/AN1	In		
52	P40/AN0	In		
53	-	-	Vref.	Reference: 3,3V
54	-	-	AVCC	
55	MD0	I	1	Operating mode = 7: Single chip mode.
56	MD1	I	1 (0 for mode 5)	
67	MD2	I	1 (0 for boot mode)	
57	-			32.768KHz X-tal
58	-			32.768KHz X-tal
59	-	-	RESET_	
60	-	-	NMI_	
61	-	-	STBY_	
62	-	-	VCC	
63	-	-	XTAL	
64	-	-	VSS	
65	-	-	EXTAL	
66	-	-	FWE_	
68	PF7/ ϕ	Out PF7DDR=1	PF7	NC
69	AS_/PF6	Out Mode7: PF6DDR=1	AS_	NC
70	PF5/RD_	Out Mode7: PF5DDR=1	RD-	Read
71	PF4/HWR_	Out Mode7: PF4DDR=1	HWR-	HighWrite
72	PF3/LWVRVADTRG/IRQ3-	In 8bit bus mode PF3DDR=0 IRQ3SCB = 10	PGOOD	Interrupt when power stable (rising edge)
73	PF2/WAIT_	Out PF2DDR=1		NC

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Pin	CPU port	I/O	Name	Function/Setting
		Mode5: WAITE=0		
74	PF1/BACK_/BUZZ	Out BUZZE=0 PF1DDR=1 Mode5: BRLE=0		NC
75	PF0/BREQ_/IRQ2_	In PF0DDR=0 IRQ2SCB = 01	RDY_ADC	Data from ADC ready
76	P30/TxD0	Out TE=1 P30ODR=0 (push-pull)	RS232_TxD	
77	P31/RxD0	In RE=1 P31ODR=0 (push-pull)	RS232_RxD	
78	P32/SCK0/SDA1/IRQ4	I	DTR	
79	P33/TxD1/SCL1	TE=0 ICE=0 P33DDR=1 P33ODR=1 (Open Drain)	Power0_EN	Enables Power for ADC0
80	P34/RxD1/SDA0	RE=0 ICE=0 P34DDR=1 P34ODR=1 (Open Drain)	Power1_EN	Enables Power for ADC1
81	P35/SCK1/SL0/IRQ5_	ICE=0 CKE1=0 P33DDR=1 P33ODR=1 (Open Drain)	Power2_EN	Enables Power for ADC2
82	P36	P36DDR=1 P36ODR=1 (Open Drain)	Power_Shut_D own	Disables VCC3V and VCC5V (L). Starts automatically at power up.
83	P77/TxD3	TE=1	DIN_ADC	SPI data to ADC
84	P76/RxD3	RE=1	DOUT_DATA	SPI data from ADC
85	P75/TMO3/SCK3	CKE1=0	SCLK	SPI CLK

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Pin	CPU port	I/O	Name	Function/Setting
		C/A_ =1		
86	P74/TMO2/MRES_	Out OS3 til OS0=0 P74DDR=1	Front_LED	
87	P73/TMO1/TEND1_/CS7_	Out TEE1=0 OS3 til OS0=0 P73DDR=1	Measure_DC_I N	Control measure of DC Input Voltage. 0 when not measuring.
88	P72/TMO0/TEND0_/CS6_	Out TEE0=0 OS3 til OS0=0 P72DDR=1	Com_Power	Sets Power on RS232 Communication (L)
89	P71/MRI23/TMCI23/DREQ1_/CS5_	Out P71DDR=1		
90	P70/MRI01/TMCI01/DREQ0_/CS4_	Out P70DDR=1		
91	PG0/IRQ6_	In PG0DDR=0	RTC_interrupt	When this pin is used as an external interrupt pin, do not specify other functions.
92	PG1/CS3/IRQ7_	PG1DDR=1		
93	PG2/CS2_	PG2DDR=1		
94	PG3/CS1_	PG3DDR=1		
95	PG4/CS0-	Out PG4DDR=1	CS0-	Chip Select Extern Flash
96	PE0/D0	O PE0DDR=1 PE0DR=1	CS_ADC0	Enables ADC0 and isolator (L)
97	PE1/D1	O PE1DDR=1 PE1DR=1	CS_ADC1	Enables ADC1 and isolator (L)
98	PE2/D2	O PE2DDR=1 PE2DR=1	CS_ADC2	Enables ADC2 and isolator (L)
99	PE3/D3	O PE3DDR=1 PE3DR=1	CS_ADC3	Enables ADC3 and isolator (L)
100	PE4/D4	O PE4DDR=1	Relay1_open.	Opens Relay1 (H)

Pin	CPU port	I/O	Name	Function/Setting
		PE4DR=1		

Table 2. Pins og Port settings on H8S/2239

5. RTC

The Real Time Clock is used for making time stamps on the measurements. A Maxim/Dallas DS1339 is used.

The RTC is addressed on the I²C interface and has the slave address 1101000 followed by the direction bit (R/W_).

DS1339 can switch between the power supply and the battery back up. It can also trickle charge the battery, if a rechargeable battery is used, however in this case a Li battery is used, and this must **not** be charged.

The tricklecharge select (TCS) bits (bits 4–7) control the selection of the trickle charger. In order to prevent accidental enabling, only a pattern on 1010 enables the trickle charger. All other patterns disable the trickle charger. The trickle charger is disabled when power is first applied.

BIT 7	BIT 6	BIT 5	BIT 4	BIT 3	BIT 2	BIT 1	BIT 0	FUNCTION
TCS3	TCS2	TCS1	TCS0	DS1	DS0	ROUT1	ROUT0	
X	X	X	X	0	0	X	X	Disabled
X	X	X	X	1	1	X	X	Disabled
X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	Disabled
1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	No diode, 250_ resistor
1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	One diode, 250_ resistor
1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	No diode, 2k_ resistor
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	One diode, 2k_ resistor
1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	No diode, 4k_ resistor
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	One diode, 4k_ resistor

Figure 1. Trickle charge register (10h) bit values

CONTROL REGISTER (0Eh)

	Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0
Name	EOSC	0	BBSQI	RS2	RS1	INTCN	A2IE	A1IE
Setting	0	0	1	Ø	Ø		1	1

Table 3. Control Register

EOSC

To keep the power consumption from the battery down, the Oscillator is not running until the EOSC register is set to logic 0.

BBSQI

This bit must be set to a logic 1 to enable the interrupt output when Vcc is absent and the DS1339 is being powered by the VBACKUP pin.

INTCN (Interrupt Control) – This bit controls the relationship between the two alarms and the interrupt output pins. The INTCN bit must be set to logic 1, so that a match between the timekeeping registers and the Alarm 1 or Alarm 2 registers will activate the SQW/ INT pin (provided that the alarms are enabled).

A1IE (Alarm 1 Interrupt Enable) – When set to logic 1, this bit permits the A1F bit in the status register to assert SQW/ INT (when INTCN = 1). When the A1IE bit is set to logic 0 or INTCN is set to logic 0, the A1F bit does not initiate the an interrupt signal. The A1IE bit is disabled (logic 0) when power is first applied.

Alarm 1 Interrupt is used for the time for next measurement.

A2IE (Alarm 2 Interrupt Enable) – When set to a logic 1, this bit permits the A2F bit in the status register to assert SQW/ INT (when INTCN = 1). When the A2IE bit is set to logic 0 or INTCN is set to logic 0, the A2F bit does not initiate an interrupt signal. The A2IE bit is disabled (logic 0) when power is first applied.

Alarm 2 is used for the regular status wake up.

6. AD-Converters

6.1. Setting ADC1 to ADC3 (AD7730)

MCLK = 4.1952MHz

Mode Register

MD2 MD1 MD0 Mode of Operation = 0 0 1 Continuous Conversion Mode

MR12 (B/U) = 1: Unipolar mode

MR7 (HIREF) = 0: 2,5V reference (nominal)

MR6 = 0

MR5 MR4 (RN1 RN0) = 1 1: Input Range 0mV to +80 mV

MR3 (CLKDIS) = 0

MR2 (BO) = 0

Filter Register

FFC3-FF12 (3EF1-3EF0) = 0111 0000 0011 (704H) : Default Update Rate = 57 Hz

FR11 FR10 (Zero) = 0 0

FR9 (SKIP) = 0

FR8 (FAST) = 0

FR7 FR6 (ZERO) = 0 0

FR5 (AC) = 1

FR4 (CHP) = 1

FR3 FR2 FR2 FR0 (DL3-DL0) = 1 1 1 1 : Default Delay = 48,75µs

DAC Register

DR7 - DR6 = 0 0

DR5 - DR0 = 0 0 0 0 0 0

6.2. Measure ADC 1 - ADC 3For both R_C and R_R on ADC1 to ADC3 Readout Scaling is:

$$R = \frac{V_{IN}[V]}{0,125[A]} \quad (1\text{LSB} = 38,147\text{n}\Omega @ 80\text{mV range})$$

Sample 1000 dataset (17,5s). Calculate Average value

6.3. Setting ADC0 (AD7734)

MCLK = 6.144MHz

I/O Port Register

IO7 IO6 (P0 P1): Read P0 and P1 levels

IO5 IO4 (P0DIR P1DIR) = 1 0 : P0 output and P1 input

IO3 (RDYFN) = 1 : RDY on enabled channels

IO2 IO1 = 0 0

IO0 (SYNC) = 0: No SYNC operation

Channel Conversion Time Register

CT7 (Chop) = 0: Chopping Disabled

CT6 - CT0 (FW) = 5Ch : Default Update Rate = 1008Hz

Mode Register

MD7 MD6 MD5 Mode of Operation = 0 0 1: Continuous Conversion Mode

MD4 = 0 (CLKDIS)

MD1 (24/16 BIT) = 1: 24 bit mode

MD0 (CLAMP) = 0:

Channel Setup Register

CH7 CH6 CH 5 = 0 0 0

CH4 (Stat OPT) = 0 : Status register of RDY

CH3 (ENABLE) = 1 : Channel in continuous conversion mode

CH3 = 0

CH1 CH0 (RNG1 RNG0) = 0 0 : Range $\pm 10V$ **6.4. Measure ADC0****6.4.1. Channel 0**For I_{closed} on ADC0 channel 0 Readout Scaling is:

$$I_{closed} = \frac{V_{in}[V]}{5[\Omega]}; (\text{LSB} = 238\text{nA} @ \pm 10V \text{ range})$$

Sample 4000 dataset (4s).

Calculate RMS Value.

6.4.2. Channel 1 - 3For U_{open} on ADC0 channel 1 - 3 Readout Scaling is:

$$U_{open} = 27.6 \cdot V_{in}; (\text{LSB} = 32,92\mu V @ \pm 10V \text{ range})$$

Sample 4000 dataset (4s).

Calculate RMS Value.

7. Power Supplies

The board is supplied from an external 12V DC. Except from 3.3V_{Allways} (and 5V_{allways}) all the supplies can be controlled by the CPU.

The supplies interacts as follows:

Name	CPU IF	Characteritics	Supplies			
12Vdc in	12V_Status (In)	External DC input	5Vcom	3,3Vcom	5Vallways	3,3Vallways
3,3V always	-	Linear regulator in IPM6220	CPU	RS232	EEPROM	
5V always	-	Linear regulator in IPM6220				

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Name	CPU IF	Characteritics	Supplies			
3,3Vcom	Power_Shut_Down (P36)	Non-isolated switched DC/DC converter (Buck)	Digital Isolation1 – 4 (primary side)			
5Vcom		Non-isolated switched DC/DC converter (Buck)	7V ₀ - 7V ₃	Probe relays # 1 – 3		
7V ₀	Power0_EN	Isolated non-regulated switched DC/DC converter	5V ₀			
7V ₁	Power1_EN	As 7V ₀	5V ₁			
7V ₂	Power2_EN	As 7V ₀	5V ₂			
7V ₃	Power3_EN	As 7V ₀	5V ₃			
5V ₀	Power0_EN	Linear regulator	Digital Isolation0 (secondary side)	ADC0 (AD7734)		
5V ₁	Power1_EN	Linear regulator	Digital Isolation1 (secondary side)	ADC1 (AD7730)	Excitation probe 1	
5V ₂	Power2_EN	Linear regulator	Digital Isolation 2 (secondary side)	ADC1 2 (AD7730)	Excitation probe 2	
5V ₃	Power3_EN	Linear regulator	Digital Isolation 3 (secondary side)	ADC3 (AD7730)	Excitation probe 3	

Table 4. Interactions between supplies

7.1. Control of Supplies

The CPU is supplied from 3,3V always supply. This is present as long as the DC input is powered. The CPU can control the other supplies.

Main Power

Main Power (3,3Vcom and 5Vcom) can be turned off setting the "Power_shut_down" port to a 0. Setting the port to a 1 turns on Main Power.

The main power gives a PGOOD (IRQ3) when it is ready. Start time for this power is approximately 25ms.

Isolated Power supplies

The Main Power must be turned on before any of the Isolated Power supplies are turned on.

Only one of the isolated power supplies must be turned on at a time.

Setting Power3_EN to a 1 turn on the power to the ADC3. Setting Power3_EN to a 0 turn off the power to the ADC3

Setting Power2_EN to a 1 turn on the power to the ADC2. Setting Power2_EN to a 0 turn off the power to the ADC2

Setting Power1_EN to a 1 turn on the power to the ADC1. Setting Power1_EN to a 0 turn off the power to the ADC1

Setting Power0_EN to a 1 turn on the power to the ADC0. Setting Power0_EN to a 0 turn off the power to the ADC0

After start of each power supply, and delay time of 100 ms must be kept to ensure that the supply is stable, before a measurement starts.

The measurement sequence including power control is listed in Chapter 8.

7.2. Potentials

In order to have a corrosion that is representative to the corrosion in the pin holes of the gas pipe, the 3 probes must be kept at the same potential as the pipe most of the time. This is done by 3 relays when they are not asserted (Normally Closed). When measuring the resistance of the 2 elements in each probe, the relay is opened, and the input channel (ADC1 - 4) is floating.

Spread Resistance is measured by ADC0, and this is referring to the potential of the pipe. Measuring the 2 parameters V_{open} and I_{closed} is done on each probe by opening the relay to the probe and measuring V_{open} for this probe on the ADC0 channel 1 to 4. I_{closed} is measured on ADC0 channel 0. The relays decides on which probe I_{closed} is measured. The 2 other relays must be open at this stage.

The CPU and RS232 are at all times isolated from all the 4 ADC channels and the pipe.

7.3. Power Monitor

The Input power can be measured at the AN5 ADC on the CPU. In order to reduce power consumption, this input has to be enabled for reading and disabled again. Setting "Measure_DC_IN" at P73 to a 1, enables the monitor. Setting the port to a 0 disables the monitor.

The Inputsignal on AN5 must be scaled to: $V_{DC\ in} = 6.49 \times V_{AN5}$

8. Measurement sequence

The normal measuring sequence is as follows:

Wake from sleep mode on interrupt from RTC.

Enable Power monitor

Wait 1 ms

Read Power Monitor

Disable Power Monitor

Enable Main Power

Wait for PGOOD (25 ms)

Open Relay1

Open Relay2

Open Relay3

Enable Power0

Wait 100 ms

Setup ADC0

Measure ADC0 channel 1 ($V1_{open}$)

Close Relay1

Wait 100 ms

Setup ADC0

Measure ADC0 channel 0 ($I1_{closed}$)

Open Relay1

Wait 100 ms

Measure ADC0 channel 2 ($V2_{open}$)

Close Relay2

Wait 100 ms

Setup ADC0

Measure ADC0 channel 0 ($I2_{closed}$)

Open Relay2

Wait 100 ms

Measure ADC0 channel 3 ($V3_{open}$)

Close Relay3

Wait 100 ms

Setup ADC0

Measure ADC0 channel 0 ($I3_{closed}$)

Open Relay3

Disable Power0

Enable Power1

Wait 100 ms

Setup ADC1

Internal Full scale calibration ADC1

Internal Zero scale calibration ADC1

Measure ADC1 channel 2 ($R1_R$)

Measure ADC1 channel 1 (R1_C)
Disable Power1

Enable Power2
Wait 100 ms
Setup ADC2
Internal Full scale calibration ADC2
Internal Zero scale calibration ADC2
Measure ADC2 channel 2 (R2_R)
Measure ADC2 channel 1 (R2_C)
Disable Power2

Enable Power3
Wait 100 ms
Setup ADC3
Internal Full scale calibration ADC3
Internal Zero scale calibration ADC3
Measure ADC3 channel 2 (R3_R)
Measure ADC3 channel 1 (R3_C)
Disable Power3

Close Relay1
Close Relay2
Close Relay3

Save data
Set RTC Alarm register
Enable RTC Interrupt (IRQ6)
Shut down Main Power
Go to sleep mode

Corrosion Detector Connection Principle

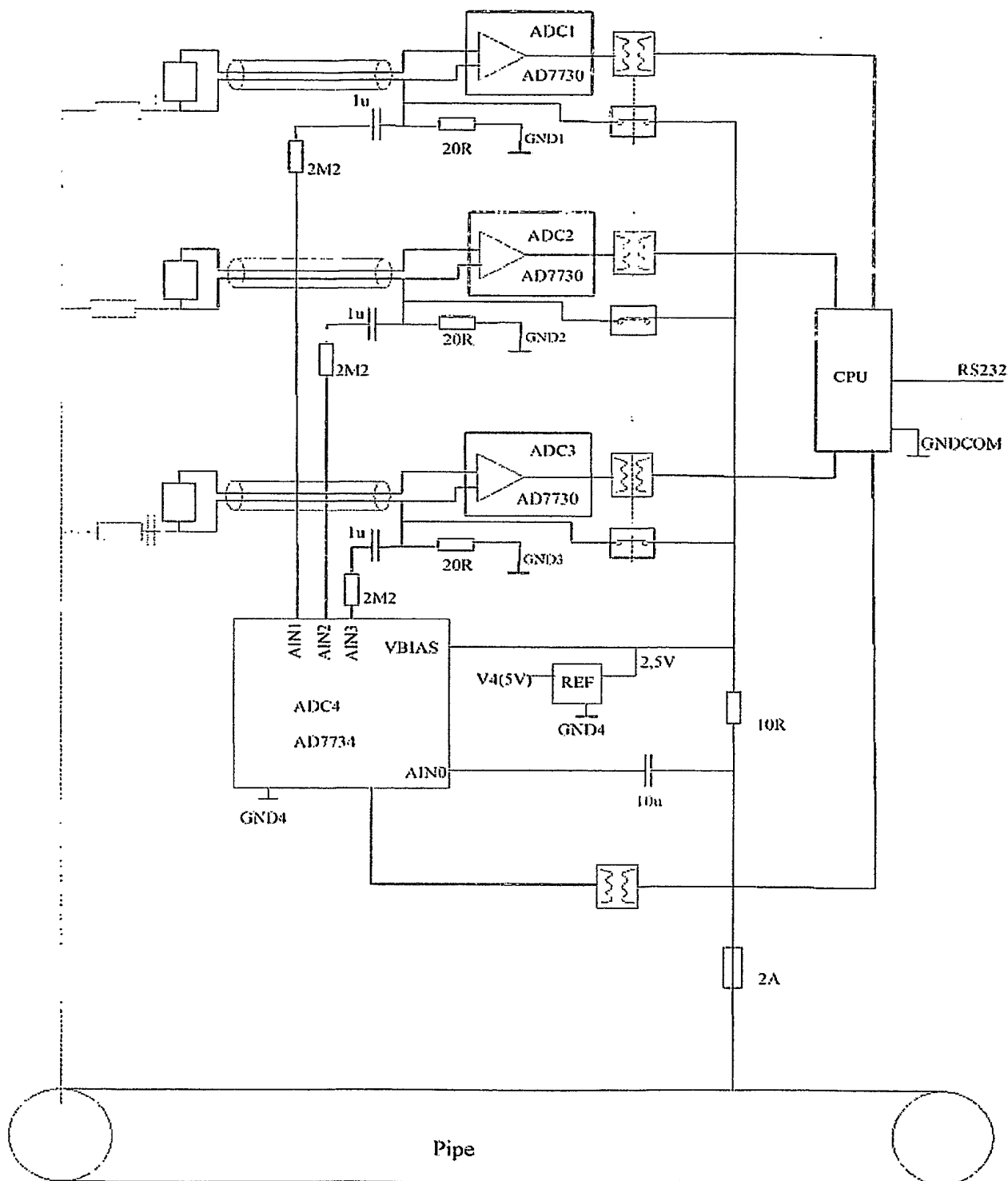


Figure 2

9. Related documents

..\Software\Software Requirement Specification V010.doc

..\Requirement specification V030.doc

..\Design specifikation V031.doc

Calculations\Dimensionering Corrosion Detector V040.doc

CLAIMS

1. A method of diagnosing corrosion risk of a pipe or a pipeline buried in soil due to DC stray currents and/or AC voltages induced in the soil, comprising:

5 i) providing a two-part metal probe including a first probe part having a first metal element of a first size and a first specific resistivity, said first probe part constituting an exposed element, and a second probe part having a second metal element of a second size and a second specific resistivity, said second probe part being hermetically sealed and constituting a reference element,

10 ii) burying said two-part metal probe in said soil,

iii) measuring the AC current flowing between said pipe or said pipeline and said two-part metal probe,

iv) measuring the AC voltage between said pipe or said pipeline and said two-part metal probe,

15 v) measuring the spread resistance based on said AC current determined in step iii) and said AC voltage measured in step iv) according to Ohm's Law,

vi) passing a first excitation current through said first probe part and determining the voltage generated by said first excitation current across said first probe part for measuring the resistance of said first probe part according to Ohm's Law,

20 vii) passing a second excitation current through said second probe part and determining the voltage generated by said second excitation current across said second probe part for measuring the resistance of said second probe part according to Ohm's Law,

25 viii) storing said measurements provided in steps iii), iv), v), vi) and vii),

ix) repeating said steps iii), iv), v), vi), vii) and viii) periodically,

x) determining the corrosion of said first probe part based on the measurements performed in steps vi) and vii) according to a mathematical corrosion algorithm, and

30 xi) diagnosing the risk of corrosion of said pipe or pipeline based on an empirical combination of the actual corrosion of said first probe part, said spread resistance determined in step v) and said AC voltage measured in step iv).

2. The method according to claim 1, said first probe part and said second probe part having identical metal elements.

3. The method according to claims 1 or 2, said step x being performed in accordance with the following equation:

$$\sigma(t) = \sigma(t=0) \cdot \frac{R_R(t)}{R_C(t)} \cdot \frac{R_C(t=0)}{R_R(t=0)}$$

4. The method according to any of the claims 1-3, said diagnosing of step xi) being performed in accordance with the following table:

Event	Active corrosion	Spread resistance	AC voltage	Diagnose
1	no	high (1-10Ωm ²)	low (below approx. 10V)	No risk
2	no	high (1-10Ωm ²)	high (above approx. 10V)	No critical condition but monitor spread resistance further
3	no	low (0.001-0.1Ωm ²)	low (below approx. 10V)	No critical condition but be aware of increased AC voltage
4	no	low (0.001-0.1Ωm ²)	high (above approx. 10V)	Risk of AC corrosion incubation period
5	yes	low (0.001-0.1Ωm ²)	high (above approx. 10V)	AC corrosion – take mitigation actions
6	yes	low (0.001-0.1Ωm ²)	low (below approx. 10V)	Corrosion may arise from DC stray current
7	yes	high (1-10Ωm ²)	low (below approx. 10V)	Corrosion may arise from DC stray current

			approx. 10V)	stray current
8	yes	high (1-10 Ω m ²)	high (above approx. 10V)	Corrosion may arise from DC stray current

5. The method according to claim 4, said spread resistance being high provided the value of said spread resistance being above 0.1-1 Ohm and being low provided the value of said spread resistance being below 0.1-1 Ohm.

5

6. The method according to any of the claims 4 or 5, said AC voltage being high provided said voltage being higher than approximately 10V.

7. The method according to any of the claims 1-6, said steps 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 being repeated with a frequency of one or more days.

10

8. A system of diagnosing corrosion risk of a pipe or a pipeline buried in soil due to DC stray currents and/or AC voltages induced in the soil, comprising:

i) a two-part metal probe including a first probe part having a first metal element of a first size and a first specific resistivity, said first probe part constituting an exposed element, and a second probe part having a second metal element of a second size and a second specific resistivity, said second probe part being hermetically sealed and constituting a reference element, and having a cable for connection to an external measuring apparatus,

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ii) a measuring apparatus including :

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a housing,

a cable connector for the connection of said cable of said two-part metal probe to said external measuring apparatus included within said housing,

an AC current measuring circuit for measuring the EC current flowing between a pipe or pipeline and the two-part metal probe when said probe is buried in said soil,

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an AC voltage measuring circuit for measuring the AC voltage

between said pipe or said pipeline and said two-part metal probe when said two-part metal probe is buried within said soil,

a resistance measuring circuit connected to said AC current measuring circuit and said AC voltage measuring circuit for determining the spread resistance based on Ohm's Law,

a current excitation circuit for passing through said cable a first excitation current to said first probe part and for measuring the voltage generated by said first excitation current across said first probe part for measuring the resistance of said first probe part according to Ohm's Law and for passing a second excitation current through said cable to said second probe part and for determining the voltage generated by said second excitation current across said second probe part for measuring the resistance of said second probe part according to Ohm's Law,

storage means for storing the measurements made by said AC current measuring circuit, said AC voltage measuring circuit, said spread resistance measuring circuit and said current excitation circuit, and

a diagnosing circuit for diagnosing the risk of corrosion of said pipe or pipeline based on an empirical combination of the actual corrosion of said first probe part, said spread resistance and said AC voltage.

9. The system according to claim 8, said measuring apparatus including a micro processor constituting part of said AC current measuring circuit, said AC voltage measuring circuit said spread resistance measuring circuit, said current excitation circuit, said storing circuit and said diagnosing circuit and controlling the overall operation of the apparatus for periodically repeating the measurements.

10. The system according to any of the claims 8 or 9 further adapted for the performance of the method according to any of the claims 2-7.

11. A two-part metal probe for use in carrying out the method according to any of the claims 1-7 and for use in the system according to any of the claims 8-9 and including a first probe part having a first metal element of a first size and a first specific resistivity, said first probe part constituting an exposed element, and a second probe part having a second metal element of a second size and a second

specific resistivity, said second probe part being hermetically sealed and constituting a reference element.

12. A measuring apparatus for use in carrying out the method according to any
5 of the claims 1-7 and constituting a part of the system according to any of the claims
8 or 9.

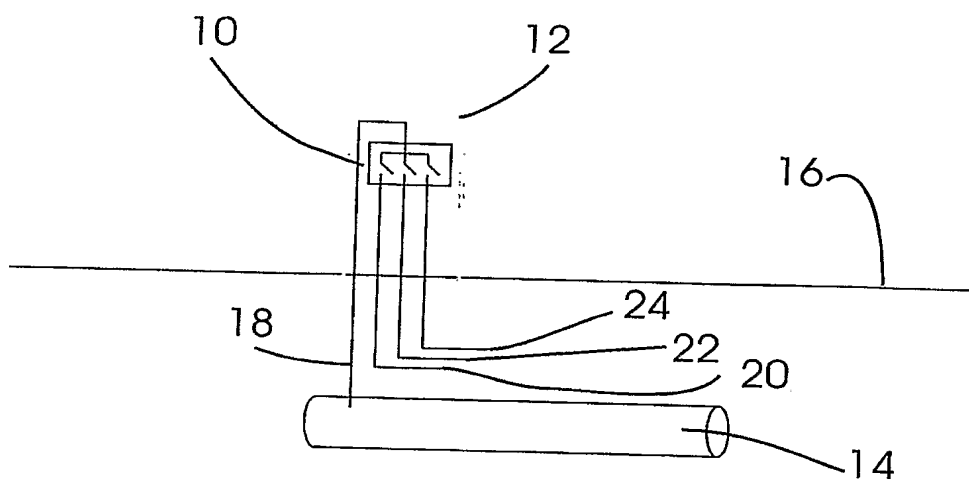


Fig. 1

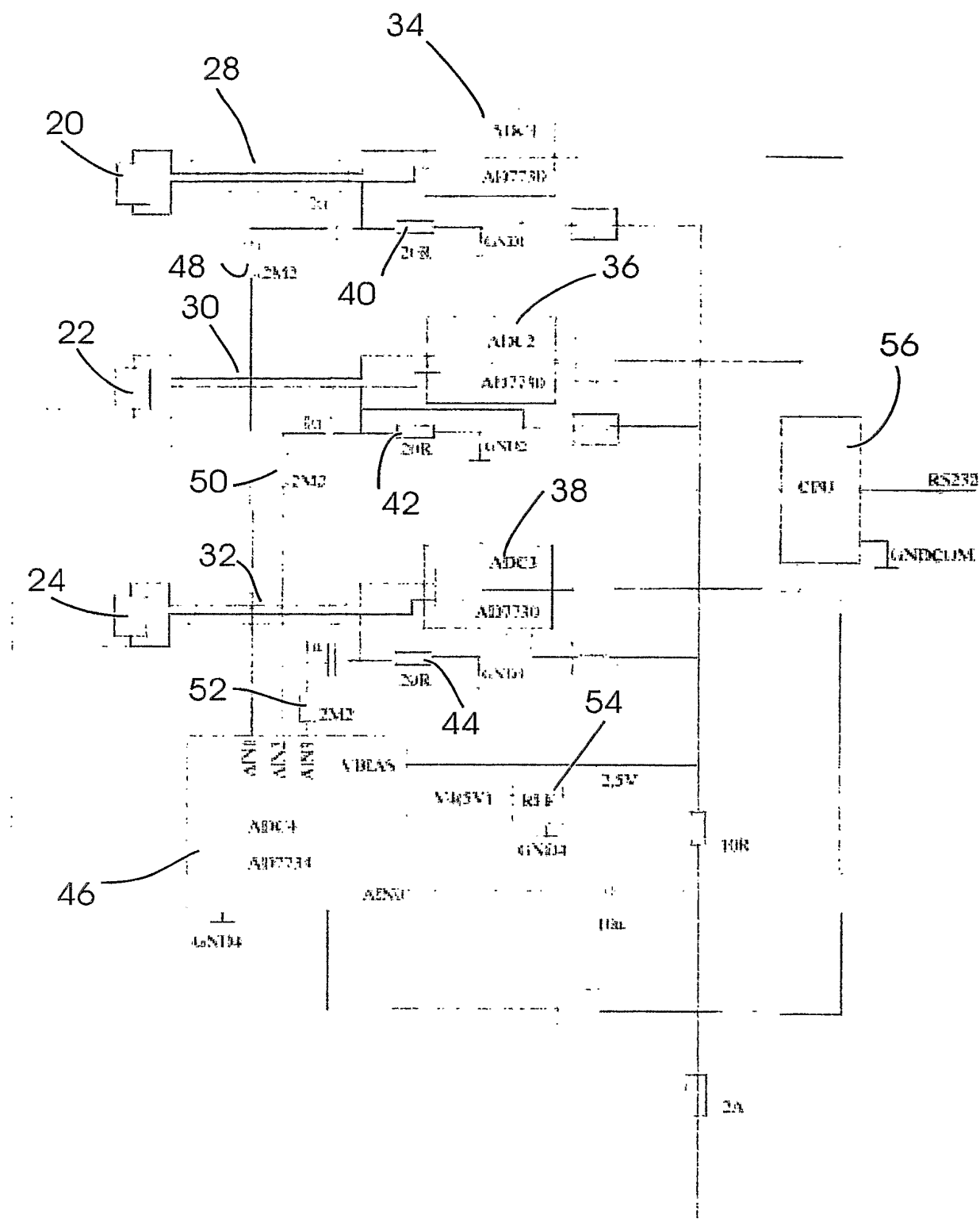


Fig. 2A

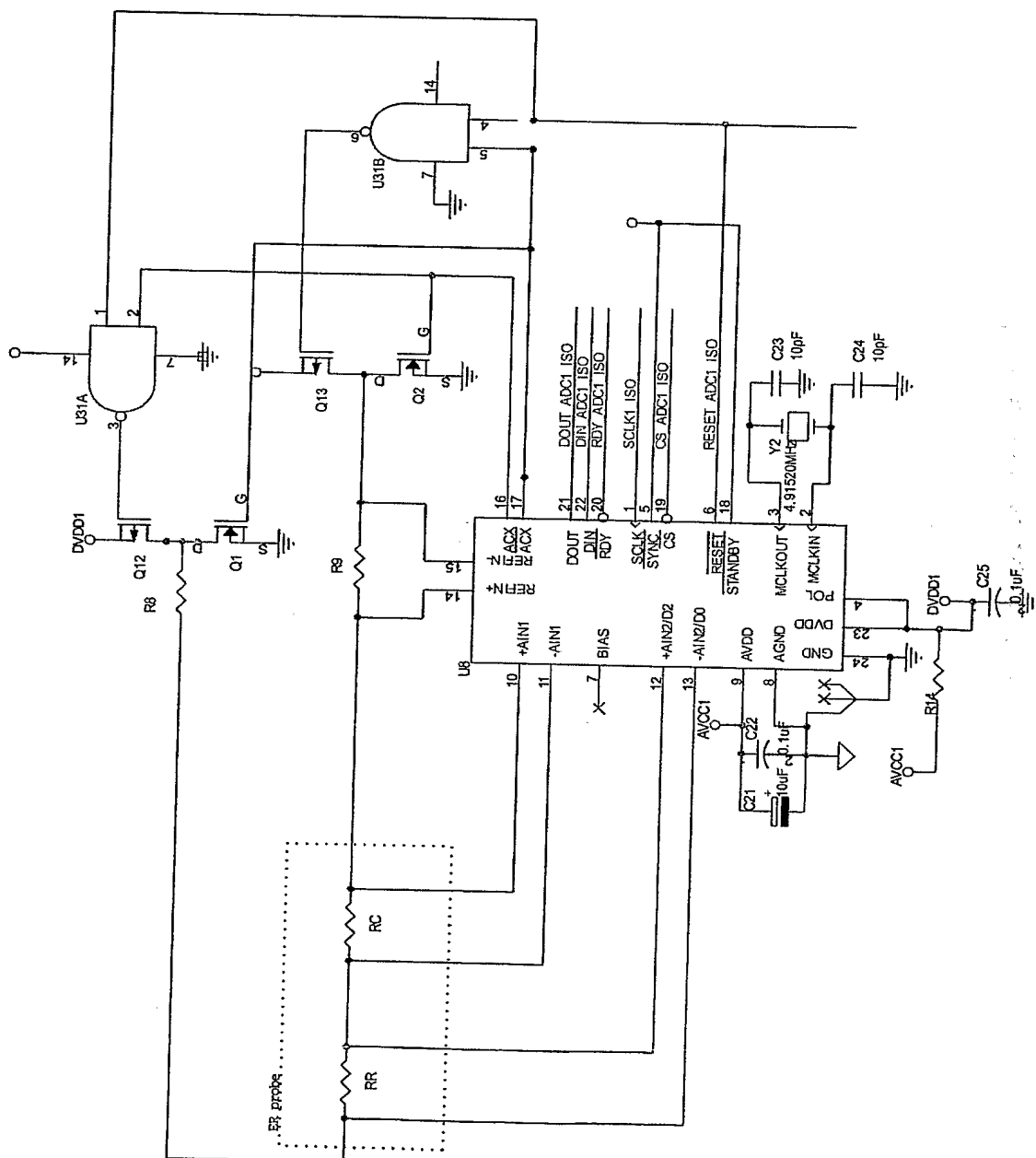


Fig. 2B

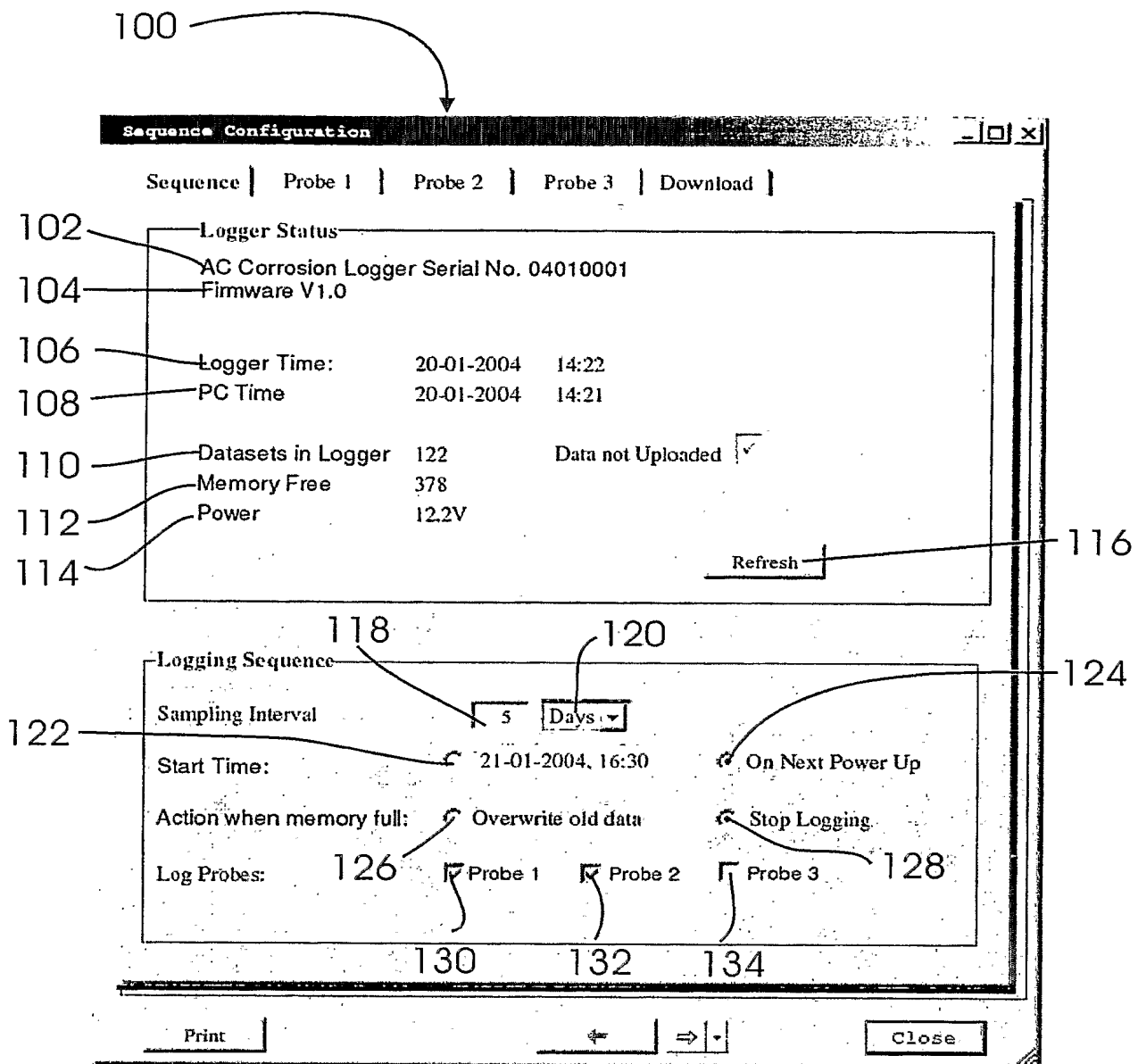


Fig. 3

Sequence Configuration

Sequence | Probe 1 | Probe 2 | Page 3 | Download

Factory Data

Serial No. 123456789123456

Probe Type AA12345678

Area 10.0 cm²

Initial Thickness (d) 100 μm

Certificate Rr 18.34 mΩ

Certificate Rc 18.27 mΩ

Initial Resistance Data

Recorded on
AC Corrosion Logger
No. 04010001
20-01-2004, 14:22

Rr: 18.48 mΩ
Rc: 17.52 mΩ

User Data

Tag No. 12345678

Description Dette er en ER probe, som er god til at måle på gasrør med (77 chr)

Open

Save

Probe Condition:

☒ New Probe (Logger records Initial Resistance Data)

☒ Exposed Probe (Use Initial Resistance Data from file - Recommended if data are available)

☒ Exposed Probe (Use Certificate data)

Print

Back

Close

Print

Back

Close

Print

Back

Close

Fig 4

Sequence Configuration

Sequence | Probe 1 | Probe 2 | Probe 3 | Download

Probe 1	Probe 2	Probe 3
Exposed Probe Serial No. 123456789123456 Probe Type AA12345678 Area: 10.0 cm ² d: 100µm Rr: 18.48 mΩ Rc: 17.52 mΩ Tag No. 12345678 Dette er en ER probe til at måle på gasrør med (77 chr)	New Probe Serial No. 123456789123454 Probe Type AB12345678 Area: 25.2 cm ² d: 50µm Rr: First measurement Rc: First measurement Tag No. 12345678 Dette er en ER højfølsom probe	Not selected

Logging Sequence

Logging every 5 days starting on next power up

AC Corrosion Logger No. 04010001 has memory enough to log in 456 days

Logger Time will be set to PC Time

Print Bank Download Close

Fig. 5

